



Bookham Bulletin

LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Please visit bookhamcommunityassociation.org for the very latest information

Winter 2025

Bookham achieves environmental sustainability awards



At the Sustainable Mole Valley Awards held at Pippbrook in October Bookham won two awards.

Our wonderful Bookham Blue Hearts Wildflower Verges were a 2025 WINNER with ***'This award is proudly presented to Bookham Blue Hearts Wildflower Verges for their winning contribution and dedication to environmental sustainability in the field of nature and biodiversity'***

The Bookham Community Association were Runners-up in the Energy category for the Solar Panel Array and Battery system fitted on the Old Barn Hall earlier this year. Their citation reads: ***'This award is proudly presented to Bookham Community Hall for their highly commended contribution and dedication to environmental sustainability in the field of energy'***

Also nominated for the awards were the BRA (Bookham Residents' Association) Tree Wardens (Frances Fancourt and Chris Cunningham) and Julia Dickinson for her Chalk Stream work both under Nature & Biodiversity. Under Waste and Recycling was the BRA Litter Pickers Group run by Margaret Lawson and Michael Herbert.

Congratulations to you all and many thanks for all you do.

Blue Heart verges

This year has been one of the driest on record but the wildflower verges have been resilient. In particular, the Grange centre in Rectory Lane and our Cowslip and Pyramidal Orchid area near the traffic lights at the top of the High Street have been beautiful! Some of our residents have done amazing work on their verges. Last year we planted a large area of daffodils by the Lower Shott car park and this year we will be doing the same along the cherry tree avenue by the Lower Road recreation ground.

We have been negotiating with Surrey Highways to put the project on a better

footing and feel we have made great progress. They now have a mowing machine which collects the grass on the final cut and the general mowing has improved to keep paths and open areas clear. All of our designated verges - large or small, public or residential - are increasing in diversity of flora, which is what Surrey's Biodiversity policy mandates. You can take a quick tour of our verge highlights by searching for Bookham Blue Hearts on YouTube or follow us on Facebook.

Steve and Diane Poole

Solar System on the Old Barn Hall

This is an array of 19 panels on the roof of the store with battery storage to reduce our energy consumption and reduce our carbon footprint. With the very sunny summer it has been performing in line with expectations and has made a substantial contribution to our electrical energy used.

This was made possible with a grant of £20,000 from the UKSPF Community Halls Energy Efficiency Grants Scheme administered by Mole Valley District Council.

Keith Slark



Christmas Activities
pages 16 & 17

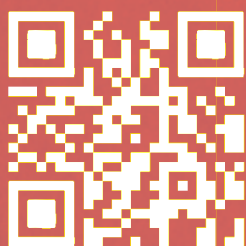


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BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Bookhams Bulletin

92nd Year

Issue 355

Bookham Community Association - Incorporated in England & Wales Company number 8000494

Registered Charity number 1148881. Registered Office: The Old Barn Hall 55 Church Road, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 3PQ

From the Chairman

**We wish you all a very happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year**

Keith Slark keithslark@tiscali.co.uk 01372 457375



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What's Happening

December

6	Spirit of Christmas	P16
12-23	Santa's Sleigh Rounds	P16
13	Eastwick Road Church Concert	P14

January 2026

16/17	Pose Panto – Robinson Crusoe	P3
23/24	Pose Panto – Old Barn Hall	
28	BCA AGM	

June

14	Bookham Open Gardens	P7
20	Bookham Village Day	

Regular events at the Old Barn Hall

Bookham Country Market - Friday mornings
Old Barn Hall Jazz Club – most Sundays

Monthly

Bookham Flower Club – First Monday
BF&D Garden Society – Fourth Monday
Bookham u3a – First Tuesday
Bookham Stamp Club – Fourth Tuesday
Cancer Chat Café – Second Wednesday
The Arts Society – Fourth Tuesday
Bookham Bees – First Wednesday

Elsewhere

Bookham Litter Pickers – First Sunday
Bookham Seniors Computer Club – Friday
Bookham Scottish Country Dance – Friday

Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

Deadline for Spring issue:

1 January 2026

Email articles or queries to the Editor
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Bookham Open Gardens



Bookham Open Gardens Day will be back on Sunday 14th June 2026

We do hope you can come along, so please save the date!

We are always on the lookout for new gardens. If you think you might be interested in opening (or know someone who might) and would like to share your garden with our visitors, do contact us for a chat. We love variety, from quirky to formal, productive to

picturesque, wildlife-friendly, large through to small. Typically we offer a range of different size gardens – it's amazing what can be fitted into a small area! Opening is a great way to get to know people and feel part of the community.

As well as new gardens, we hope to welcome back gardens that have opened in the past, no matter how long ago. Maybe you've changed the layout or put in extra features, and people always like to see how gardens they've seen before have matured or developed.

If you would like to open your garden or help for an hour or two in any other way, please contact Tina Hutton on 01372 457598, email tina.hutton@btinternet.com or Diane Poole email opengardensinfo@gmail.com. Contacting us will not commit you but we would love to come and see your garden in the

early spring (if not before) and talk it through.

You can also check out and 'Like' our Facebook Community Page – search for 'Bookham Open Gardens' to find.

Let's hope that 14th June 2026 will be a beautiful sunny day – see you there!

Diane Poole



Bookham u3a

Bookham and District u3a has a full ongoing programme of monthly meetings and talks held at 2.30 in the Old Barn Hall, Church Rd on the first Tuesday of the month.

Recent speakers have been a research biologist at the Natural History Museum, a wildlife photographer in November and for our special cake and wine meeting in

December, a humorous talk from a former publican at the Tan Hill Inn and his anecdotes of his time there.

Our popular social events such as regular quiz nights for members continues with a Murder Mystery evening performed by an acting group called The Killing Game and includes a meal.

Our recent event to welcome new members and also invite visitors to find out more about our u3a was well attended. We have recruited new members who have also joined some of our 60+ interest groups.

Recently the historical costume group were snapped by "Le Monde" when they attended the annual Jane Austen picnic on Box Hill. Other adventures for London Walking Groups include walking in the rain on Tower Bridge!

We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month, a talk followed by tea and biscuits and a chance to

meet and chat with other members and you can decide whether to join us.

Find out more about our activities, interest groups and future talk titles either by visiting our website: bookhamu3a.org.uk or coming to a meeting.

Viv Bignell



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Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society

Such a happy day was had by all at our Summer Show. Fortunately the weather cleared up just as people arrived in the afternoon so we could enjoy our delicious cakes and tea in the sunny courtyard. The ancient timbers of the old Tithe Barn formed a wonderful backdrop for the resplendent arrays of flowers, vegetables, home products and crafts.

It is wonderful to see what artistic, culinary or cultivating skills we have in the community and great to have a show where they can be exhibited and enjoyed by all. It is becoming such a community event with more people taking part and others coming to enjoy the beautiful occasion. Well done to all the entrants and of course congratulations to all the trophy and award winners.

Many thanks to our very professional panel of judges who give of their time to make such carefully considered judgements. They were very complimentary about the standard of the show. Many thanks again to the Nicholls family for allowing us to use this beautiful venue and to all who have made it such a successful event.

If you missed it this year, please put Saturday 11th July 2026 in your diary for next year. It is going to be a particularly special show as, believe it or not, the society will have been going continuously for 150 years!

To find out more about this society, attend our talks and outings or find out details about next year's show, please contact Angela Stevens on 01372 456713 or email craigjrstevens@btinternet.com



Action Theatre Club - News Flash!!!!

New opportunities for the stage – and the screen!

Action Theatre Club is bursting with energy this term, and we're thrilled to share some incredible news! We're now offering TV and film acting opportunities to all students, giving them the chance to gain real on-screen experience. Even more exciting – we've teamed up with a children's talent agency, opening doors to professional auditions for TV, film, and stage work.

This term is packed with amazing opportunities for every age group:

Our youngest stars are heading to The Green

Room Theatre in Dorking, where they'll perform joyful mini musicals in front of a live audience.

Our tweens and teens are acting, singing, and dancing in original short films, which will be shown on the big screen at Epsom's Picturehouse Cinema – lights, camera, action!

And our senior students (ages 14–18) have joined our exciting new Professionals Theatre Company. They're currently rehearsing for a full-scale production of Legally Blonde – and there are still roles available for any young performers who want to join the cast!

Whatever your child's passion, we offer a wide

range of performing arts classes to support their talent and build their confidence:

- Private Singing Lessons
- Private LAMDA Lessons
- Musical Theatre & Acting Classes
- Street & Contemporary Dance

Whether your child is new to performing or ready to take the next big step, Action Theatre Club offers fun, professional training in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Don't miss out – come and join the action!

Visit www.actiontheatreclub.com to book your trial class today.

Advertorial see also page15

Is there a perfect time to downsize?

What if one of the risks in retirement isn't running out of money—it's staying exactly where you are? While many older adults spend months agonising over the "perfect time" to downsize, the real opportunity cost is measured not in pounds, but in the vibrant years lost to oversized homes and isolated routines.

Waiting for the "right time" to move often means waiting too long. The most successful transitions to retirement living happen when people are still active, healthy, and able to fully enjoy the benefits of their new lifestyle.

Why renting makes perfect sense in retirement

Unlike traditional retirement villages requiring substantial upfront investments, Birchgrove's rental model offers unparalleled flexibility and

financial freedom. There's no need to tie up your capital in property or worry about maintenance costs. Instead, you pay a simple monthly rent covering all major expenses from building maintenance to emergency support systems.

This approach means greater flexibility to enjoy what matters - family, travel, hobbies, or simply having peace of mind. When repairs are needed or emergencies arise, they're handled professionally without stress.

Birchgrove leads the way in premium retirement rental living through genuine community combined with complete independence. Their thoughtfully designed developments feature spacious apartments that feel like proper homes, not institutional

accommodation.

On-site facilities rival luxury hotels - restaurants, fitness suites, club rooms, and landscaped gardens - yet everything is designed specifically for older adults. Most importantly, Birchgrove creates genuine communities where friendships develop naturally.

The decision to move into retirement living is empowering - a declaration that your best years are still ahead.

Birchgrove operates retirement communities in London, Kent and Surrey. Contact the team today to arrange a visit and see for yourself how retirement living could transform your future.

Visit www.birchgrove.life for more information, or call 020 3929 5599.

Effingham Early Steps – Toddler Group

We are a friendly, welcoming group run by St Lawrence Effingham and All Saints Little Bookham Church

We meet each Tuesday in term time. We provide tea, coffee and snacks and a range of toys and craft activities for the children. We always end our sessions with a time together singing nursery rhymes and children's action songs.

We enjoy celebrating the seasons together. We

are looking forward to lots of festive fun in December including a Christmas party!

If you are a parent/grandparent/carer of children aged 0-5 do come along and join us Tuesdays 10- 1130 am at the Church Hall, Browns Lane KT24 5NL (suggested donation £2.50 per family). We look forward to meeting you!

Laura
laura@elbchurch.org.uk



Mole Valley Runners

Mole Valley Runners had a lot of fun on the trails over the summer months. Our Thursday morning runs are usually at KG5 Effingham but went adventuring for August – plodders enjoyed Bookham Commons, and steadies enjoyed a run from Denbies, Headley and Holmbury St Mary.

Recent "last Friday of the month" pub runs have been from Ye Olde Windsor Castle pub in Bookham and The Star in Malden Rushett. Wednesday Wanderers usually run from Denbies but moved to Denbies Hillside on Ranmore for the summer to explore some different routes.

Our summer social was fun, rounders played at KG5 and it was interesting to see the competitive moles coming out to play! There were a few stiff legs afterwards



We had a lot of fun at the Denbies Bacchus half marathon where we had a Mole Valley Runners aid station and where many of our members volunteered to be wine and water pourers, and a couple of us ran (and wobbled after the wine) round the route enjoying the stunning scenery and atmosphere.



If you'd like to find out more about us, we have a website www.molevalleyrunners.org You're very welcome to book on a trial run do come and meet us and have a go. Please feel free to email club chairperson Louise Sutherland on louisesmvr@gmail.com to find out more about us.

Little Bookham WI

Following a delightful summer of garden visits, walks and social get togethers including the President's summer tea party, we began the Autumn season with a wonderful celebration for our group's 60th birthday.



Careful planning for this event ensured a variety of delicious food was arranged which catered for all dietary requirements. This included a marvellous anniversary cake made for us by The Grange Centre in Bookham. There were opportunities to look at memorabilia, depicting adventures and activities from the past 60 years, as well as a challenging photographic quiz. The photos were unnamed pictures of members from the past 20 to 30 years with no baby photos allowed. The challenge was to match them to the correct WI member which proved to be not as easy as we thought.

Our WI Flower Arranging Group produced exquisite arrangements placed around the hall which were cleverly made up of three distinct parts. At the end of the party members were invited to look under their chairs to see if they had a lucky coloured spot. If they did they were able to claim a part of one of the flower displays to take home.

So many people helped to make our celebration special from the lady who knitted

little pouches for our leaving gifts, the members who devised our table displays and quizzes and especially members who helped to tidy up at the end. We cannot name you all but are grateful and thank you.

Looking ahead to December a magnificent magician is travelling from Suffolk to entertain us at our Christmas meeting.

Little Bookham WI meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Little Bookham Village Hall. Our meetings start at 3pm and visitors are always welcome,

F McGregor



Great Bookham School

Exciting New Outdoor Area at Great Bookham School

This September, the school was delighted to welcome our new Reception and Pre-School children into their beautiful classroom spaces — complete with a brand-new early years outdoor area.

The space has been designed to ensure all children have continuous access to the outdoors, with high-quality equipment to support learning through play and help every child meet their physical milestones. The addition of a 100-metre canopy means that, whatever the weather, our children can enjoy the outdoors whenever they choose.

We were thrilled to welcome Clare Curran, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Lifelong Learning, and Claire Harden, Trust CEO, to officially open the new space. The children celebrated with an exciting party afterwards, and it has been heart-warming to

see them play and explore their fabulous new environment.

Our older pupils have also benefited from the transformation of our infant hall into three bright and modern classroom spaces. We are extremely proud of what we offer our children here at the school — not only through the education provided but also through the inspiring environments in which they learn.

The Great Bookham School community is a truly special one. This term we have continued to invest time in building strong relationships with all our stakeholders. Over the first five weeks we welcomed parents into school through several initiatives, including 'Open October', where parents are invited to spend time in their child's classroom, and our popular 'Grandparents' Reading Afternoon', which brought together grandparents from across our infant department to share stories and smiles.

We feel incredibly fortunate to be supported by so many generations of our school community and continue to look for new ways to strengthen those connections and celebrate our shared commitment to our children's learning and happiness.

If you would like to tour our school please contact our school office - info@pbs.sfet.org.uk or log on to our school website.

Jenna Allen
Headteacher



Peter Pan Playschool

We had a lovely end of year celebration with a leavers' ceremony in Eastwick Roach Church, followed by a party with a bouncy castle! We said goodbye to 23 children in July, moving onto school or new settings. We were so fortunate to be gifted over £1300 from the Light and Life Gypsy Church in Leatherhead that some of our leaving families were members of, and we've used some of this to purchase an outdoor climbing frame for the children.

Our new starters and returning children have settled in incredibly well and we're enjoying getting to know our new families. So far this term we've enjoyed a walk to the shops to purchase our ingredients to make apple crumble for cooking, clay and pine cone hedgehogs for our outdoor learning, and the children are enjoying the new outdoor climbing frame a lot! We visited Eastwick Road Church for a short Harvest Festival service and took our donations which will be taken to Leatherhead Start.

We have a lot of 2-year-olds in setting at the



moment so the water tray is very popular – as is handwashing at the small sinks! We try to channel the children's curiosity by having a water tray indoors all the time and also one in the garden when the weather allows, and they can learn so much from simple water play.

We've got a final few spaces left for the rest of this year where a few of our new starters didn't join in the end due to changes in circumstances, so please get in touch if you'd like to arrange a viewing or have any questions.



To find out more take a look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PeterPanPlayschool and our website www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk Or email us at louise@peterpanplayschool.co.uk or call 07908 018924 and Louise and the staff team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Barn Hall Crafters

The Barn Hall Crafters are a group of ladies who enjoy crafting. We meet every month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday morning 9.30am – 12.30pm in the Harrison Room in the Barn Hall. We have regular workshops such as macrame,

mosaics, silk painting, paper crafting and all kinds of embroidery. Basically you name it and we will have a go. In between workshops we meet to bring our own craft we are doing. Does it sound interesting? Come for a taster

we would love to see you.

For more information please contact Lorraine Tully on 07736 279887

Bookham Country Market



Wonderful Donation to Macmillan Cancer Care and Christmas is coming!

On 26th September we held a Macmillan Cancer Care fundraising day, and you did us proud. Together we raised £875.00 to be donated to the charity through a combination of wonderful cream teas and a prize draw for 5 wonderful prizes.

Each week we greet, on average, 6 new customers. Should you be one of these? Thanks to all our regular customers, and those new faces, your local Friday market is thriving. We are open from 10am to 12 Noon every Friday morning in the Old Barn Hall, and with Christmas on the way now is the time to visit to pick up, or order, some early presents or supplies.

On Saturday morning, 15th November, we opened for a special pre-Christmas market. A wide range of high-quality hand-made craft

products were available – Cards, Jewellery, Pottery, Wood, Pewter, Decorations and many others articles lovingly created by our highly skilled home craft makers.

And that is not all, if you want some specialty cheeses to make up a present, we have some award-winning varieties straight from the Dairy. Or you might like to give a bottle of gin made from raw Honey. Our local gin maker, based in Fetcham, is also available to buy from every week on Friday.

On Fridays you can order a Christmas Cake or mince pies from our home cooks to be collected later, and we have artisan breads without any chemicals. There are home-made preserves of all kinds and local honey, great stocking fillers, as well as some wonderful plants, propagated by our expert suppliers.

Having done your shopping, relax and enjoy a freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee or Teapigs tea, or maybe a warming mug of hot chocolate, with a slice of home-made cake.

The market is run completely by volunteers

and is a valuable community activity providing a venue for social interaction, income for the BCA to help the upkeep of the Old Barn Hall and a source of high quality, locally produced products for its customers.

See and read more at www.bookhammarket.wixsite.com/mrkt

Contact us at bookhammarket@gmail.com 07836 646456



Polesden Lacey Infant Academy

A World of Discovery at Polesden Lacey Infant Academy



Polesden Lacey Infant Academy believes in nurturing well-rounded individuals, and this commitment extends far beyond the classroom walls. Children are offered a vibrant array of extra-curricular activities, trips, clubs, and experiences, enriching their learning journey and fostering a lifelong love of curiosity and discovery.

One of the highlights for the children is the exciting programme of educational visits. From the interactive exhibits at museums to the historical wonders of local buildings, these trips bring learning to life. Imagine the awe on a child's face as they explore the British Wildlife Centre, learning about native animals, or the excitement of a visit to Nower Wood, discovering local flora and fauna. Using the

LEO minibuses, the cost of the trips is kept to a minimum.

The school also boasts a diverse range of school clubs. Budding artists unleash their creativity in art club, while young musicians explore rhythm and melody with the Rock Steady Academy. Dance and sports clubs provide opportunities to develop skills, teamwork and confidence. There are also clubs that tap into other interests, from boardgames to gardening, Spanish to creative writing, dodgeball to nature explorers, ensuring there's something for every child to explore their passions. Clubs are open to all our pupils from Reception to Year 2.



Special experiences are also woven into the school's calendar. Visitors include authors sharing their stories, inspiring a new generation of readers and writers. Workshops on topics, from healthy eating to road safety equip children with essential life skills. We also love to participate in community events, fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility.

The emphasis is on providing a holistic education where children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. The wealth of extra-curricular activities, trips, clubs, and experiences ensures every child has the opportunity to discover new talents and embark on a truly unforgettable educational adventure.

The Meeting Place

The Meeting Place is a small local charity offering activities that build up our community and reduce isolation. We have two activities aiming to support people experiencing hearing loss - Lip Reading classes and Hearing Champions.

Our Lip Reading classes are taught online by a professionally qualified (ATLA) tutor. They are friendly, supportive and informative and show you how to use your visual sense to bolster your residual hearing. As well as lipreading they cover many useful topics including assistive devices, understanding hearing loss and strategies to get help from friends and family. Many participants find it a relief and a pleasure to meet others to share their experiences and this can help reduce feelings of isolation. The Meeting Place subsidises the cost of these classes.

Our Hearing Champions service offers free support on the operation and basic maintenance of NHS hearing aids (including battery supply,

cleaning and re-tubing and trouble shooting). In addition, information, advice and signposting to other services and equipment is available. Hearing Champions takes place on selected Saturday mornings throughout the year in association with the Meeting Place Coffee Shop held at Bookham Baptist Church Hall. The next sessions is on 6 December, 10am to 12 noon. This is a drop-in service, no appointment necessary, refreshments are available. Please bring your brown NHS battery book.

As we get closer to Christmas, all are welcome at the Anna Chaplaincy's Advent Carol Service on Wednesday 3 December at Eastwick Road Church. This short service with mince pies and coffee available beforehand will be especially suitable for those on a dementia journey and their families and carers.

For more information about The Meeting Place and all our activities please visit our website <http://themeetingplace.org.uk>, email us at info@themeetingplace.org.uk or ring the TMP

**ADVENT
CAROL SERVICE**

	When	Wednesday 3 rd December 2025
	Where	Eastwick Road Church Eastwick Road, Bookham, KT23 4BE
	Time	10.15am Refreshments 11.00am Carol Service

All are welcome

Please note that the Carol Service will be suitable for those on a dementia journey and their carers.



mobile 07425 133431 to leave a message. You can follow and like us on Facebook too.

Bookham Help Your Neighbour

Did you know there was an organisation in Bookham dedicated to offering a volunteer-run service to take people to medical appointments? That is Bookham Help Your Neighbour. We exist to help those who, through disability, age, infirmity or other reasons find it a huge challenge to get to the medical appointments we all face with increasing frequency as we get older.

Our volunteers give up their time so that our clients can have a friendly face to accompany them and to make their experience as stress-free as we can manage. We ask only a small donation to cover the cost of transport.

Would you be willing to join our sadly dwindling pool of drivers who enable us to offer this service, perhaps two or three times a month? It can be very rewarding, and without

our volunteer drivers and those who man our phone line on weekday mornings we could not continue.

We would love to hear from you – please contact Jan Rains at 01372 450009 if you'd like to know more. Please don't wait – contact her today!

Thank you.

Pose

ROBINSON CRUSOE SAILS INTO BOOKHAM!!!

POSE is a Bookham based drama group and has performed a pantomime at The Old Barn Hall for the last fifty odd years. We stick with the traditional family pantomime format, suitable for everyone and the stories we tell will be familiar to all; this year it is 'Robinson Crusoe' by Tom Whalley.

Robinson Crusoe lives with his mother Dame Crusoe, his father Captain Crusoe and his daft brother Sprat in the quiet village of Widdling by the Sea but has always longed for adventure. He has no wish to inherit the family Fish & Chip Shop! Meanwhile, on the high seas, the evil Captain Blacktashe and his henchman Winkle are searching for treasure but the map showing where X marks the spot has been lost for many, many years... Will Robinson ever find his adventure? Will Captain Blacktashe find the treasure? Will Dame Crusoe end up



battered or just bewildered?

Come along to support your local drama group and join us for lots of fun and laughter as we follow our friends to the Caribbean Thousand Island, enjoy a sing song and find out all about the strange writing on the back of the chip shop menu!

Robinson Crusoe is at The Old Barn Hall, Bookham on Fridays 16th & 23rd January 2026 at 7.45pm and Saturdays 17th & 24th January 2026 at 2.30pm and 6.30pm.



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW - adult £12, children/senior £10. Please contact 01372 454001 or 01372 458254 for more details. Group rates available for parties of 10+. Tickets also available from Curchods Estate Agents, Church Road, Bookham or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/posedrama

South Bookham SPACE



Did you know that you are welcome to come and join our friendly team of volunteers who help support South Bookham SPACE? We will always welcome help and support.

The SPACE facility is run by local people for the benefit of our community. As with all charities, to keep running we need new recruits. If you have fresh ideas and a willingness to take over a role (there are a variety), we would like your support. Some of our dedicated volunteers are nearing stepping down and are looking to share their wealth of knowledge and experience.

There are numerous positions, big and small, that all make a real difference to our community. We hold regular meetings to support each other and improve SPACE and the activities it offers. To find out more, please contact us on info.southbookhamspace@gmail.com.

No previous experience is needed.

We also welcome new regular activities. Please see our websites Hiring page for further details of the facilities we offer and our prices. Have a look at the Calendar pages for availability, then contact us to secure your place.

If you would like to find out more about the activities hosted at SPACE please see our website www.southbookhamspace.org.uk. To hire a venue for your next party, event or meeting please email us: hire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com. We look forward to you joining us.

Natasha Matthews

Mole Valley Silver Band

Silver sounds bring joy to all, young and old

If music can't fix it, it can't be fixed, the saying goes, and the local tradition supporting it goes back to the founding of the Mole Valley Silver Band in the 19th century.

The tradition goes on. The band began its year with three concerts marking the 80th Victory in Europe (VE) anniversary in the same week. The summer saw us play in halls, churches, schools and village events in Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham, ranging over to Wallington and, in September, to the bandstand at Guildford Castle.

We end the year with the biggest and best gig of the year, our Christmas Concert at 8pm on 17 December at Fetcham Village Hall. Bring holly, bring mistletoe, and we'll supply the mince pies, tea and coffee and, most important of all, the joy of Christmas music for the whole family.

If you'd like to spread the joy of music, why not try our training band? We encourage new or newly-returned players, young or old, to join in or relive their music making. The main and training bands meet in Ashcombe School in Dorking every Monday evening.

Our website www.molevalleysilverband.co.uk



tells you more about the band, its history and its training-band offshoot. For more info contact our secretary, Sarah Kent, on 01372 456176, or email secretary@molevalleysilverband.co.uk.

Bookham Trefoil Guild - Guiding for adults

FIND FRIENDSHIP - GET ACTIVE - GET INVOLVED - GIVE SUPPORT

We meet once a month, generally at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, at Bookham Guide Headquarters, Keswick Road KT23 4BH, Bookham, corner of Keswick Road and Durlleston Park Drive. We enjoy a variety of activities, speakers and outings, including a pub lunch on the first Friday of the month.

In March members took part along with Guiding members of all ages in the Surrey East Guiding show MUSIGALS at Leatherhead theatre

We were inspired by the ECO team from St Nicolas Church in Bookham, which has won the Gold Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth by Worship and Teaching, Management of Buildings and Land, Community and Global Engagement

and encouraging an environmentally aware Lifestyle.

We have enjoyed an Easter evening - Easter bonnets, fun food and games - and a mad hatter's tea party at a member's home, held a musical evening playing bell plates, and had a fascinating visit to Cobham Mill. We had a coffee morning and fundraising lunch for the charity DYSCover, which provides support for people with aphasia.

Our aims are

To keep alive the spirit of the Guide and Scout Promises and Laws

To carry that spirit into the community in which the Guild members live and work

To give support to Guiding and Scouting

While many members have been, or are, actively involved in Guiding or Scouting, all



adults are welcome, with or without previous involvement in the Guide or Scout movements.

Contact us for our programme details

Anne Coleman
01372 452309
anne.coleman6@btinternet.com
www.trefoilguild.co.uk

RSPB - Dorking & District Group

Owls, hooting and a hunting

As the nights draw in, Tawny Owls call out to claim their patch. Around now, younger owls are noisily making themselves known, hoping to muscle in and set up their own territory. But if other owls are close by, there's often a standoff in the darkness, it hoots before dawn. Listen out as the rival calls reverberate through the woodlands, mature parks and gardens throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The famous 'too-wit, too-woo' is actually a duet – the female making a 'toot-wit' (or more like a 'kerweeek') first note and the male answering with a long, drawn-out "too wooooooo".

There are Short-eared Owls in the UK all year round, but now is a great time to see them as more join us from Scandinavia, Russia and Iceland to escape the freezing conditions further north.

In winter the best places to spot them are during the day at our wetlands and coastal marshes, flying low over the landscape on the hunt for rodents. You often see more than one owl surveying the same area, slowly and silently scanning the long grass or marsh, ready to swoop down at deadly speed to catch their supper.

Short Eared Owl: Image courtesy RSPB images



See more on our activities and photos or if you're interested in joining below

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

Instagram: @rspb_dorking

Website:

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/>

Eastwick Road Church



This year we had a Harvest of Talents thinking about the different gifts within the congregation. Our giving of foodstuffs and washing products went to Leatherhead START

(formerly the Night Hostel). The Peter Pan Playschool also contributed bringing their gifts as we had a short Harvest Service in the church.

The Knitting Group are already knitting Christmas gifts meeting every Tuesday at 10am.

On Saturday December 13th 4pm the duo Celltish who performed at St Nicolas Church in the summer are returning for a Christmas

concert at Eastwick Road Church – book your ticket (£10) by phoning the Church Office on 01372 453473 (9am – 12.30pm)

The Golden Years group will be having their Christmas lunch on Wednesday December 17th at the Church. All are welcome to the regular Wednesday meetings 2pm – 3.30pm 1st and 3rd Weds at Bookham Baptist and 2nd and 4th Weds at Eastwick Road Church.

Sue Ferguson – Church Secretary

Bookham Butterflies WI

At our August monthly meeting we raised an amazing £307 for our Charity of the Year, RDA Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead. The Riding for the Disabled Association does fantastic work funding therapeutic riding sessions for children and adults with disabilities.



Rebecca Macefield (pictured), a trustee for our local RDA, joined us on the night to tell us more about their work – they have ten ponies, 145 volunteers (including nine trustees) and eight dedicated coaches. They need £90,000 a year to operate and rely on grants, legacies and donations just like ours. We raised money through a raffle, treasure hunt and competitions to guess the weight of a cake (pictured) and the number of sweets in a jar.

We also had a talk from Jenny, who spoke about volunteering with Guildford Street Angels, a group who are on duty in Guildford on Friday and Saturday nights from 11pm to 4am. They look out for others, offering care, compassion and practical help to anyone in need.

At another monthly meeting, a team of four volunteers from the charity "Central Surrey Community First Responders" gave a presentation and demonstration of first aid and CPR in an emergency situation. Bookham



members were given the opportunity to try out CPR on dummies.

Finally, in early August, a group of members and their guests enjoyed a brilliant, sunny day in Oxford, including a two-hour walking tour. It included places of interest from Colin Dexter's TV's Morse (starring John Thaw) as well as Trinity College, the Bodleian Library, Bridge of Sighs, the History of Science Museum, the Sheldonian Theatre and Blackwells Bookshop.

For more information about our WI, visit our website www.bookhambutterflieswi.com



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BOOKHAM

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025

1:00PM - 4:00PM

SPRIT OF

CHRISTMAS

HIGH STREET, BOOKHAM

What's happening when and where?

Time	Where	What
1:10pm	Top of High Street	Great Bookham School choir
1:30pm	Centre of High Street	Eastwick School choir
2:00pm	Top of High Street	Santa arrives & travels to his Grotto in Patrick Gardner
2:00pm	Centre of High Street	Action Theatre School choir
2:15pm	Top of High Street	Rampant Rooster Morris Dancers
2:15pm	Bottom of High Street	Churches Together choir
2:45pm	Top of High Street	Decibelles choir
3:00pm	Bottom of High Street	Rampant Rooster Morris Dancers
4:00pm	Santa leaves his Grotto	and heads back to Lapland

Don't forget to look out for Santa on his Sleigh runs in and around Bookham - full details in winter 2025 edition of Bookham's Bulletin.

Rotary in Bookham & Horsley helps individuals and organisations, both locally and internationally, with donations of our time and money.

With more help we could do so much more, if you would like to get involved, in whatever capacity, please drop us an email at info@bhrotary.org.uk - we'd love to hear from you!

Rotary Charity number 264727

Rotary

Bookham & Horsley

What's on? – Activities

HIGH STREET

Patrick Gardner:	Santa's Grotto with gifts for all his visitors
Ildiko's Chocolaterie:	Belgian Waffles, hot chocolate and gifts
Pearce Bakers:	Selection of goodies
Huggins Edwards & Sharp:	Facepainting and snacks
Royal Oak Pub:	Barrie's Wurlitzer music machine (car park)
Brackenbury's:	Competition, prizes, snow machine
The Law Firm:	Various activities
Wellers:	Children's quiz with prizes
Princess Alice Hospice:	Rosemary's homemade jams and cakes.
Harts sweet shop:	Sweets in a jar competition; gift stall
Fosters Drycleaning:	Sweets in a jar prize competition
Ray Layton greengrocer:	Food treats
Henshaws:	Mulled wine and mince pies
ADA'S Deli & Cafe:	Games, raffles and goodies
The Old Crown:	Hot chocolate, mince pies and more

ON CHURCH ROAD:

St Nicolas Church:	Lots on! Nativity scenes, refreshments, carols, cookie decorating and much more!
Grange @No5:	Personalised goods to order
Rawlings Opticians:	Various activities

CENTRE OF HIGH STREET

Bookham Library:	Children's advent trail with prizes
3rd Bookham Scouts:	First Aid station
1st Bookham Scouts:	Children's activities

Please support our brilliant Bookham Shops!

Free car parking ALL DAY from Mole Valley District Council



Father Christmas and his Sleigh

coming to a road near you in 2025

Saturday 6 December

Bookham 'Spirit of Christmas' Event High Street 1.30 - 4pm

Friday 12th

BOOKHAM

Groveside, Dowlans Road, West Down

Saturday 13th

BOOKHAM

Lower Shott, Newenham Rd, Overton Way, White Way, Beales Rd

Sunday 14th

EAST HORSLEY

Northcote Rd/Cres, Nightingale Ave/Cres, Edwin Road

Wednesday 17th

BOOKHAM

Hawkwood Rise, The Lorne, Middlemead Rd, Sole Farm Ave

Friday 19th

BOOKHAM

Howard Road, Dawnay Road, Hale Pit Road, Hilltop Rise

Saturday 20th

EFFINGHAM

Norwood Rd. Strathcona Ave. Links Way, Orchard Gardens

Sunday 21st

BOOKHAM

Barn Meadow Lane, Merrylands Rd, Twelve Acre Cl, Oaks Lane

Tuesday 23rd

LITTLE BOOKHAM/BOOKHAM

Little Bookham St, Childs Hall Rd, Long Meadow, Sole Farm Ave

Sundays 4.30 to 7pm, Weekdays 5 to 7.30pm (Weather permitting)

Further information from keithslark@tiscali.co.uk

Rotary

Bookham & Horsley

Collecting at Christmas for local people in need. Charity no.264727

YOU CAN DONATE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE

Thank you

HS

HORSLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

Music for Advent

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VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

& WEIR

WITH CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025 - 7.30PM

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COBHAM, KT11 3EJ

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GEORGE SALMON – BARITONE

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Comfort
and Joy



On behalf of the churches in Bookham, I welcome you to our services over Christmas. Jesus was born into a troubled world. Yet despite that, his birth was good news for everyone, and it continues to provide hope and light to our troubled world today. Do come and celebrate the birth of the one who was (and is) God with us.

Revd Canon Alan Jenkins – on behalf of Churches Together in Bookham



Christmas 2025

St Nicolas Church

Sunday December 21.	6.30 pm	A service of Christmas readings and carols reflecting the joy of Christmas.
Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Crib Service, especially suitable for those aged 7 and under
Christmas Eve	4.30 pm & 6.00pm	A family carol service suitable for older children and adults
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	A service of Holy Communion with carols to welcome in Christmas Day
Christmas Day	8.00 am	A 45 minute said service of Holy Communion to mark the significance of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00 am	An all-age service including Communion to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

for details go to www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk/

Bookham Baptist Church

Sunday 14 December	6:00 pm	Traditional of Christmas Carol Service and Readings followed by mulled wine & mince pies
Sunday 21 December	10:30 am	Christmas Family Service
Sunday 21 December	6:00 pm	Contemporary Carols with festive refreshments
Christmas Eve	11:00 pm	Candlelit Advent Communion Service
Christmas Day	10:00 am	Christmas Day Family Service. A Joyous celebration of the birth of Christ

Visit www.bookhambaptistchurch.org.uk for details or check out our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/BookhamBaptist

Catholic Parish of Effingham and Fetcham. Christmas Masses

Sunday December 21	4.00 pm	Carols Around the Tree at Effingham
Christmas Eve	8.00 pm	Carols leading to 8:30 Mass at Fetcham
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Christmas Day Mass at Effingham
Christmas Day	10:30 am	Christmas Day Mass at Fetcham

See website www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk for updated information

Eastwick Road Church (United Reformed)

Saturday December 13 th	4.00 pm	Christmas Around the World with singing and music duo "Celtish"
Sunday December 21	10.30 am	Carol Service followed by coffee and mince pies
Christmas Day	10.00 am	A short Christmas service followed by mulled wine

More details of services available on-line go to www.bookhamurc.org.uk.

St Lawrence Church, Parish of Effingham with All Saints Little Bookham

At St Lawrence, Effingham

Sunday December 7 th	4pm	Christingle Service
Sunday December 14 th	6pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service AND 11pm. Midnight Mass

at All Saints, Little Bookham

Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Day Family Service
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For full details of how to attend and of more events go to www.elbchurch.org.uk



Anna Chaplaincy in Bookham and district specifically provides spiritual support and care to elderly folk who have become isolated through physical and cognitive frailty including those on a dementia journey and carers. Our Advent Carol Service will be held on **December 3rd at Eastwick Road Church at 11am with refreshments from 10.15am.**

For more information contact Liz at ac@themeetingplace.org.uk, or phone 07518 735729

St Nicolas Church, Bookham

Skip to the loos!

St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham has improved its toilet facilities. The church has turned one old toilet into two sparkling new ones, as well as refurbishing the accessible cubicle, thanks to contributions from Surrey County Council, the Diocese of Guildford and the North America Jane Austen Society, plus the hard work of St Nicolas fund raisers.

The church undertook the work to serve better the local community during services and events held in the church, as well as those hiring the adjoining Church Room for meetings, receptions, classes etc.



The Church Room is a space approximately 11x6 metres with a good wooden floor and with access to a well-equipped kitchen, Tables and stacking chairs are provided for up to 40 people.

There is also a larger space to hire at the Pastoral Centre across the churchyard which has a carpeted floor, small equipped kitchen and toilet facilities with baby change. There are some armchairs together with tables and stackable chairs for up to 60 people.

For more information, please visit the church website:

www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk/roomhire

Celebrating Harvest

St Nicolas Church was looking resplendent during the last week of September, decked out with beautiful flower displays put together by their wonderful flower arranging team. Some displays were enhanced by the addition of fruit and vegetables, but pride of place on Harvest Festival Sunday was a beautiful hand-

made loaf in the shape of a wheatsheaf, lovingly created by Bookham's local family-run bakery: C.L. Pearce & Sons.

We understand the tradition of providing the harvest loaf to St Nicolas goes back through generations of the Pearce family, with the children and grandchildren all having their picture taken with it.

After the service 60 parishioners sat down to enjoy the said loaf with home-made soup provided and served by the St Nicolas Eco team. What a treat!



West Hill turns 65!

On Thursday 25th September, West Hill School proudly celebrated its 65th Anniversary with a joyful and nostalgic day and evening, welcoming its current community, alumni, their families and carers, former staff, and wider school associates. Guests explored a rich history exhibition featuring old school photographs, a timeline of key milestones, and archived Ofsted and Governors reports.

Children showcased their creativity in a vibrant art exhibition titled "West Hill and Me" which reflected their personal connections and favourite parts of the school. Families enjoyed exploring their child's classroom, the range of exhibitions and revelled in the confident singing, supported by our music therapist from Nordoff Robins as "This is Me" echoed around our school.

Attendees shared their own West Hill story

which have now formed keepsake books, as well as leaving a lasting mark by adding their fingerprint to the Celebration Tree. Open classrooms offered a glimpse into the fabulous modern learning environments, highlighting how the school has evolved over time. All parts of the day were filled with fun, celebration and laughter. The evening saw a lively silent disco, magical bubbles, and a talented balloon modeller. Funding from both the John Ede Trust, Leatherhead Rotary and support from local suppliers ensured a truly memorable celebration for all.

We were lucky to have fantastic volunteers from Leatherhead Rotary and the Chair and Vice Chair of our Local Board. These community associates provide a wealth of experience which deepens our connections with the locality and provides time and expertise when we take on additional events and challenges. It

is true partnership and community working that helps our children to achieve as much as they possibly can and flourish in adult life. Hearing the great journeys our pupils have made was joyful and uplifting for all.

I am proud every day of our fabulous children, the wonderful community at West Hill and all that it continues to achieve. Our values led school enables children to feel a sense of belonging and connection alongside high expectations for all. I am excited to see the next steps of the journey...

Abigail Slade - Principal

West Hill School is a special school for primary aged children with Learning and Additional Needs. Additional needs may include speech and language difficulties, autism, physical difficulties and/or medical needs. It is part of The Howard Partnership Trust.

Litter Picking in the Bookhams

Litter picking in the Bookhams has continued - sadly there is still plenty for us to collect. Many thanks to all our "Womblers" and also to our regular pickers who meet on the 1st Sunday of the month, unless it is a bank holiday weekend, in which case it's the 2nd Sunday. We've been very pleased to have

some youngsters joining us and also in July we were delighted to have some Beavers (see photo) and their parents helping us too.

If you would like to join the team, do contact me via litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org Necessary equipment is provided.



Bookham Rifle Club

Target Shooting's Ryder Cup: Our members help Britain defend the Roberts Trophy

Team GB has won the 2025 Field Marshal Earl Lord Roberts Trophy at Bisley, defeating Team USA 3863-3821 in what's been called smallbore rifle's answer to golf's Ryder Cup. (Although Team GB shooters won much more emphatically than the European golfers!)

Like the Ryder Cup, this transatlantic rivalry is steeped in pageantry and national pride. Every four years, the world's best American and British shooters face off in an intimate, high-stakes team competition—alternating between the Pershing Trophy when held in the U.S. and the Roberts Trophy in Britain.

The Drama at Bisley

American Sarah Beard dominated with a tournament-high 396, including a remarkable 199 at 50 meters—two points clear of any competitor. But Britain's depth proved decisive. Led by Adam Fowler (391) and backed by Robert Dowling and Lina Jones (both 390), Team GB built a crucial 10-point advantage at 50 meters that Team USA couldn't overcome. Both Lina and Adam are regular shooters at

Bookham Rifle club, Lina also provides top coaching tips to our newest members! It's amazing to have such prestigious sports people in our local club!

See the photo holding up their target cards, just showing how many shots hit the centre even at 100 yards away.

A Rivalry Nearly a Century in the Making

Born in 1931 with the Pershing Trophy, this competition survived the Great Depression and World War II before settling into its modern eight-year rotating format. The rules honor tradition: 10 shooters per side, iron sights only (no telescopic sights that you see in the films!).

If you are tempted to find out whether you might enjoy rifle shooting, we have all the equipment and rifles, both air and small bore, for you to come and give it a go. It's a sport open to all ages and skill levels, we also run sessions for disabled shooters, for example we have a team of shooters from Dyscover in Surrey for people with aphasia.

Look us up at bookhamrifclub.org.uk and get in touch - you could be part of the next dramatic win over the Americans!



Girlguiding, Leatherhead Division

Over the summer all our Brownie units enjoyed a Pack Holiday. Meanwhile 1st Bookham Guides attended a camp at Foxlease in Hampshire, taking part in "Musicals" themed activities.

From raft building inspired by Moana (pictured) to mastering circus skills straight out of The Greatest Showman, every day was packed with adventure and creativity, as well as regular activities such as campfires (pictured). We explored the beauty of the New Forest on a scenic walk, even spotting the iconic New Forest ponies along the way. The week ended on a high note with an impromptu Musicals sing-along disco.

Girlguiding is an amazing organisation, which empowers girls to build lifelong friendships, grow in confidence and develop leadership skills, whilst having fun and discovering new talents. Local units enjoy a huge variety of activities in our unit meetings, as well as out and about. Girls really can do anything.

Last term was packed with adventure—from countryside explorations and fire-side cooking to high ropes heroics. This winter we'll be keeping cosy indoors through craft, games, reflection and shared experiences, we'll continue building friendships and exploring



what matters to us, learning new skills on the way.

Girlguiding also offers a wide range of rewarding volunteering opportunities for adults—not just leading units but also playing a supporting role behind the scenes. From helping with admin and fundraising to sharing specialist skills or helping at events, there's a role to suit every interest. We understand that



life is busy, which is why we're committed to offering flexible volunteering options that fit around your schedule. Can you help?

To register interest for your daughter as a new member or for yourself as a volunteer, visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the registration link. Alternatively, email div.comm@girlguidingleatherhead.org.uk to find out more about your local units.

The Arts Society Bookham



After the summer break, in September we returned to an interesting mix of opera extracts from Monteverdi's original score and paintings of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth. Lois Oliver showed how the presentation of the myth both musically and visually have changed over the years adapting to current social expectations.

The November lecture explored the history and architecture of the London University quarter, Bloomsbury. Our traditional Christmas lunch will be followed by 'Wassail Away' a presentation by Tony Rawlings with guitar and



song of the stories behind carols and more modern Christmas songs.

In the New Year Rosie Francis has prepared a comprehensive set of lectures. In January Colin Schindler looks at the evolution of the Hollywood musical including excerpts from the beginning of sound through to the present day. Gardens of the Restoration with the return of Charles II, presented by Lucy Hughes-Hallett, will show how landowners returning from the continent brought new ideas for gardens many of which we visit today.

Russian and Ukraine Art over the past 200 years is the subject of Gabriel Chanan's lecture in March. A movement of artists called The Wonderers challenged the traditional art of the two countries. Cowboy Attitudes in 19th Century mid-west of America, Lust and Laudanum in Blenheim Palace and Danish Landscape Art are three subsequent titles. Fuller details on our website.

Work continues at Guildford Cathedral, where Angela Stevens and the Heritage Volunteering Group use their skills with their sewing and needlework. Anyone interested in working with the group should contact Angela either on a lecture evening or via the website.

New members are warmly welcomed to the Society at lectures at 7.30 on the fourth



Tuesday in the month at The Old Barn Hall. Tea and coffee are served from about 7pm before the talks. Meanwhile, anyone interested in joining the Society should make contact via the website. <http://theartsocietybookham.org.uk/> where there are also fuller details of lectures and visits.

John Cook

Bookham Seniors Computer Club



Free support for Windows 10 ended on October 14th 2025, meaning Microsoft is no longer providing technical support, feature updates and security updates or fixes. Your PC will still be working, but it will be at significantly greater risk from viruses and malware.

In preparation for this event, the club has been offering help and advice in advance to members at its Weekly Meetings as the options are either (i) moving to a version of Windows that is still supported i.e. Windows 11 (ii) purchasing a new PC with Windows 11 (iii) installing Windows 11 on your current PC (iv)

getting help with your transition to Windows 11 (v) giving advice on how to extend Windows 10 support.

The above is just one example of how the club can assist in our constantly changing computerised world.

The club has a large and active membership aimed at the over 50s in the area and provides a broad range of friendly and relaxed courses aimed at novices and those seeking to enhance their knowledge about using their PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

The club started its winter term with its Annual General Meeting on Friday 5 September during term time at our traditional venue, Little Bookham Village Hall (LBVH) where the programme for the winter term was discussed. The Club welcomes new members so why not come along to discuss what we do and how the club can help you. The programme is already posted on our website bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk.

Meetings are held on Friday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 at the LBVH. Annual

membership for the year 2025/26 costs £35 with includes attending any or all of the sessions with tea, coffee and biscuits provided during a mid-morning break.

The Club also runs informal sessions where you can get help with any problem or question that you have about PCs, laptops, tablets or smartphones. These sessions are free to members and are held at the LBVH on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month from 14.30 to 16.30.

The Committee also provides help to its members by email, telephone and occasionally by remote connection with answers to questions, advice and solutions to computer related problems. It keeps its members up-to-date, including details of the terms' programmes, via email and its website.

The Club welcomes new members. If you are interested in finding out more about the BSCC then phone Sue on 01372 454461 or Brian on 01372 450604 or visit our website bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk.

New Youth & Community Centre – Good news!



Budget secured & planning in progress

David Cox OBE, Chair of Trustees, Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA)

Background

In 2012, BYCA initiated an outline agreement with SCC for a new replacement Youth & Community Centre. The old Centre closed in 2019 without the agreement being finalised. BYCA continued to push for a replacement Centre and in 2021 SCC agreed a budget of £2.5m to build one at the Lower Road Recreation Ground (LRRG), our preferred location. The old site would then be available for housing or other use.

Despite MVDC Planning recommending refusal (due to green belt), outline planning permission was granted in May 2021. Issues within the local authorities delayed progress

and the planning permission expired in May 2024. A new application was submitted in April 2025, but was refused by SCC Planning, citing green belt and bio diversity issues.

New centre planned for old site (opposite Anchor Pub) – Budget of £2.8m secured

Planning's refusal of the preferred LRRG site was disappointing. However, the old site at 164, Lower Rd was our "Plan B".

Stakeholders immediately engaged with our County Councillor, Cabinet Member, and SCC's Leader to take Plan B forward, and a budget of £2.8m to build a new Centre at 164 Lower Road was formally approved by SCC's Cabinet on 23rd September 2025.

Extracts from SCC's press release:

"Surrey County Council's Cabinet has given the green light to build a brand-new Bookham Community Centre, marking a significant milestone for residents and local community groups.

The former Bookham Youth and Community Centre, located at 164 Lower Road, served the community from the 1950s until its closure in 2019.....After careful consideration of potential sites and planning constraints, Cabinet has now confirmed that the new Bookham Community Centre will be delivered independently of any housing development, ensuring that the needs of the community remain the top priority.

The current building on Lower Road, will be demolished and replaced with a modern structure designed with Surrey County Council's net zero aspirations in mind. The building will have energy-efficient systems and renewable energy sources such as solar panels and heat pumps.

The new centre will provide a flexible, multi-functional space for a wide range of local activities, supporting the creation of a vibrant, inclusive community hub. SCC aims to complete the project by March 2027.

Progress & communications

More planning and other approvals will be needed but discussions and meetings with SCC Officers are continuing. BYCA is investing in a new website to inform the community on progress and matters relating to the new Centre.

BYCA comment

We thank SCC's Cabinet for its support. Particularly County Councillor Curran and the Leader of SCC, Cllr Oliver, who have both been very supportive over the years, and instrumental in overcoming obstacles and getting this project funded.

The drive is now to get the Centre built as soon as possible. Let's hope we have no more "false dawns"!

Great Bookham Belles WI

A group of 40 members from the Great Bookham Belles WI recently enjoyed an unforgettable evening at the iconic Tower of London, thanks to a special invitation from the Glider Pilot Regiment Society and Yeoman Warder Scott Kelly, better known as "Beefy 409."

The evening began with a fascinating guided tour of the Tower grounds, led by Scott himself. With his sharp wit and brilliant storytelling, he brought the Tower's rich and often dramatic history to life as the sun set over the ancient walls — a truly atmospheric experience.

Next, the group had the rare privilege of stepping inside the Yeoman Warders' private pub, The Keys, for drinks. The highlight of the evening came as everyone quietly gathered to witness the Ceremony of the Keys, the centuries-old tradition of locking up the Tower gates, still performed every single night. Phones and cameras were put away as



members watched in respectful silence, soaking up the sense of history.

The group also had a chance to visit the famous ravens and see the striking poppy



display currently on show, a moving tribute that added a reflective note to a truly special evening.

It was an experience none of the Bookham Belles will soon forget.

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Bookham Stamp Club

www.bookhamstampclub.com

Bookham Stamp Club meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall in Bookham with our very popular Trading Tables opening at 1.30pm, and displays commencing at 2.15pm. Our programme includes visiting speakers, members' displays and auctions. We also have a packet exchange through which members can buy and sell stamps.

Sell your stamp collection

We are interested in purchasing unwanted collections. Please contact either Malcolm Cole: programme@bookhamstampclub.com 01372 457392

Or Barry Feltham:

secretary@bookhamstampclub.com 01372 450288

Become a member

If you are new to stamp collecting or want to renew your hobby, come along to one of our meetings, you will be warmly welcomed by up to 50 plus members. But to find out more before attending contact our Membership Secretary

Fred Mitchell on 01372 374614, or look at our website www.bookhamstampclub.com

Our recent meetings

We were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in July when our speaker Lorraine Maguire displayed her "Every Cover and Letter Tells a Story." The letters and covers travelled between New Zealand and its WWII soldiers in North Africa and Europe.

Michael Dobbs our speaker in August opened his display by stating that NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was established in 1949 and his presentation touched upon many different elements of its 76-year history.

September brought us our annual thematic competition for the Roy Gilbert Cup. This year there were 8 members (picture) producing 14 entries, the winner will be announced at our Christmas meeting. In October we had our annual auction with well over 300 lots.

Our upcoming meetings

Tuesday 25th November – Graham Stockdale – Famous People and QV Covers & Steve Paice – Aspects of KGV Australia.



Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Buffet Lunch & Raffle.

Tuesday 27th January – Members' Display followed by a display on the Crimean War – Robert Prentice.

Tuesday 24th February – Peter Cockburn – North Borneo – Postal History & Postcards.

Tuesday 24th March – Geoff Richardson – Bosnia.

Tuesday 28th April - Barry Feltham – Tower of London.

We welcome newcomers to the hobby as well as experienced collectors.

Barry Feltham

Hon. Secretary



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SCOUTS

The Rampant Roosters

Nearing the end of their dancing season, the Roosters will be hanging up their Bells and Baldricks. However, we were invited by the Ragged Phoenix Morris to attend their Day of Dance in Carshalton in October, and will be taking part in Christmas celebrations in Bookham and Dorking

We have been dancing in Gouvieux, France, next to Chantilly. This is one of Dorking's three twinned towns. Last year we danced at a festival in Sinalunga, Tuscany, and we were such a success we have been invited back next year for another festival. In 2027 we will visit the third twinned town, Guglingen in south Germany, near Stuttgart.

Other highlights of this year's dance-outs were the visit to the Royal Flower Show in Windsor, The Morris Fest in Cranleigh, a Day of Dance in

Horsham and Dorking's VE Day celebrations. The Roosters will be hosting their Day of Dance in the centre of Dorking next June.

With the onset of Autumn, we have begun our practice sessions every Tuesday in the Church Hall at the top of Box Hill, where we will be learning new dances for next season. We now have four Bookham dancers in the Roosters, BUT WE WANT MORE! If you have an interest in English traditions, are inclined to be slightly eccentric, are curious about the Morris and are interested in international travel, you will be warmly welcomed at one of our practice sessions. Be assured, if you can tap your feet to music, and have more than one leg, we can teach you to dance. Come to the dizzying heights of Box Hill for a fun evening's dancing. Contact us through our website: www.rampantroostermorris.co.uk



Armada Probus Club

The Armada Probus Club is a welcoming community for individuals who are retired or semi-retired. Our members gather on the first Wednesday of each month at Effingham Golf Club to enjoy a sociable lunch, followed by an engaging talk from a guest speaker. We have a comprehensive programme of speakers scheduled well into 2026, ensuring that each meeting offers something interesting and new.

Activities and Outings

Beyond our monthly meetings, we organise outings to places of interest, reflecting our commitment to providing a vibrant and active club experience. This past year has seen a particularly lively calendar of events. In May,

members enjoyed a guided tour of Brookwood Cemetery, Grade I listed Historic Park and Garden located in the heart of Surrey. In July, we embarked on a cruise around Portsmouth Harbour, followed by a captivating visit to the D Day Story Museum. More recently, our programme included a tour of Twickenham Rugby Stadium and Museum.

The Club also boasts an enthusiastic walking group, which meets monthly. These walks are typically concluded with a convivial lunch at a local pub, providing an opportunity for members to socialise. In addition, we arrange theatre trips during the autumn months, further broadening the range of activities.

We are always eager to welcome new



members into the Armada Probus Club. If you are interested in joining us or would like to learn more about us,, please visit our website at <https://armada-probus.club> or contact our Secretary at alanbrowne1066@gmail.com

Plastic Free Bookham



Things have been generally quiet on the project since Village Day, though we have been in conversation with another local organisation about becoming a Community Ally and hope that will bear fruit. To become an Ally, an organisation signs the Plastic Free Pledge to: (a) work to remove three items of single-use plastic from their activities, if appropriate (b) ensure their communications reflect their stance on reducing singleuse plastic and (c) generally raise awareness and

support plastic-free initiatives in the community.

News

Given the number of news reports about the harm caused by plastic pollution we were disappointed to see the latest discussions on a Global Plastics Treaty ended without an agreement. On a positive note, there are also reports on actions that individuals and companies are taking to tackle the problem. Visit the Alternatives to Plastic page of our website www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk for

ideas on what you could do to reduce your own usage of single-use plastic.

We also have information on local and national recycling schemes on the Plastics Recycling page, though it's better for the environment to cut down on waste wherever possible. If you know of any schemes that we've missed or have any other queries please email us at pfcbookham@gmail.com or have any other queries please email us at: pfcbookham@gmail.com

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 website: <https://www.bookhamresidents.co.uk/contact-the-bra/>

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EDUCATION: THE EARLY YEARS

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effingham@abdiocese.org.uk

Mole Valley WI

Another busy three months for Mole Valley. John Lane, a published author and a leading authority, gave an interesting talk on the Amazon Basin. We do not have a meeting in August however on one of the very hot summer days more than fifty members met for a super lunch at Effingham Golf Course.

We went back in history in September when Sarah Slater, a blue badge guide and a

volunteer at Hampton Court, gave an amazing talk on Secrets, Scandals and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court 1660-1830.

We have many sub groups which continue to thrive. Currently we are full with a waiting list but if you would like to put your name on the list or come as a visitor you can find out lots about us on our website: molevalleywi.chess.co.uk



Leatherhead Youth Project

Leatherhead Youth Project has provided youth work in Bookham since 2017 with the generous support of Eastwick Road Church, St Nicolas Church and Bookham Baptist Church. We offer a number of projects for young people, including after school drop-ins, residential trips and volunteering opportunities.

BYouth

BYouth is our after-school drop-in held in St Nicolas' Pastoral Centre (accessed through the alley between Carolina's and Heads Up). This year, we have increased our offering from two days a week to three, now open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00-6:15. BYouth is a safe space for young people to socialise, play games and build relationships with youth workers. Last year, we saw 77 different young people attend and we are excited to see so many new Year 7s at the start of this year. Our young leaders have been working hard in the kitchen making drinks and snacks, as well as running group games for their peers.



Making Good

In October half term we took a group of young people to Banstead Common for our social action project, Making Good. This project allows young people to take part in volunteer work and give back to the community while developing their relationships with one another. As a reward for their hard work, the young people went to Airhop!

Countdown to Christmas

We are looking forward to the festive season with our annual Countdown to Christmas, providing different activities for the young



people to enjoy as they get into the holiday spirit. This includes building gingerbread houses, decorating a Christmas tree and a host of Christmassy crafts.

Our projects are open to young people in Year 7-13 and are free to access. For further information or to make a donation to help us continue our work, please email lucy@leatherheadyouthproject.com or visit www.leatherheadyouthproject.com.

Lucy Hicks
Bookham Lead
Leatherhead Youth Project
01372 383345

Bookham Flower Club

Bookham Flower Club's July competition, 'Bright and Beautiful', reflected the heat of the summer with some extremely colourful designs. Kathryn Austin was the Demonstrator at this meeting, her title being 'Moon River'. The designs she created were stunning.

The August meeting was a tea party held in the wonderful setting of the Tithe Barn in Effingham. Members were able to chat over a delicious cream tea served on traditional china plates, cups and saucers.

National Demonstrator, Nick Grounds, returned to the club for the September meeting. He is an accomplished speaker and mixed comedy and information with perfect ease and timing, while producing some interesting designs in unusual containers, such

as an upturned industrial lampshade, under his title 'Oran Mor'. The competition this month was 'Less is More' and was very popular.

Two Club members played a big part in the organisation of the NAFAS Floral Design Show at the RHS Wisley Garden Flower Show in September.

The club now turns its attention towards Christmas, which is a fun time for flower arrangers, decorating with wreaths, table centres, mantelpiece and banister swags and more. The Christmas meeting is on December 1st with National Demonstrator Dr Christina Curtis giving the club 'A Fairy Tale Christmas'. For information about meetings, please contact bookhamflowerclub@gmail.com





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Bookham Bees WI



What a lovely summer we have had with days filled with beautiful sunshine.

The Bookham Bees WI have been as busy as the bees in the gardens and fields.

OUR LATEST MEETINGS

At our July meeting we welcomed an inspiring speaker from the Mary Frances Trust, which is based in Leatherhead. This non-profit charity offers mental health and well-being help to anyone over the age of 16 years.

August saw our annual 'drinks and nibbles' evening on the green by the Barn Hall. Much fun was had with plenty of refreshments, chatter and games of bingo, pass the parcel and true or false game. We welcomed back the brilliant Lindsay Barrall in September who talked about how she became a sign language teacher and showed us how to sign the alphabet using our hands.

In addition to our monthly meetings and many sub-groups, several of our members had a very

relaxing picnic under the willow tree at Downsends on a very hot August lunchtime. A coach trip to see the musical 'Top Hat ' at Chichester Theatre was a great day out, with rave reviews about the show.

Our supper group is very active with a different venue chosen by members every month. There was a successful outing when 18 members went to the Bookham Tandoori restaurant where the food was excellent. We have a fantastic guest for our Christmas party this December and a varied programme already booked for 2026.



The Bookham Bees go from strength to strength with our sub-groups growing even larger in number.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Old Barn Hall at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. For more information please contact our membership secretary Heather Broadhurst.

heather@broadhurst.org.uk

Jenny Bissell

President Bookham Bees WI



FaB Repair Café

Since our inception in January 2024 the FaB Repair Café has successfully repaired more than 1,000 items for the local community.

In addition to our regular monthly Café events, we hosted several 'pop-up' events this year. Notably, in June, we participated at Bookham Village Day with a teddy bear repair stall in support of the Teddy Bears' Picnic theme, and in September, the National Trust invited us to provide services at their Heritage weekend at Polesden Lacey.

The FaB Repair Café, which serves Fetcham, Bookham, and nearby areas, was established by members of Bookham and Horsley Rotary Club, St. Mary's Church, Fetcham, and a dedicated team of skilled local volunteers. The initiative promotes sustainable living and environmental stewardship by repairing items and reducing landfill waste.

Our volunteers offer expertise in repairing a diverse range of items, including:

- Bikes
- Computers and IT equipment
- Clothing and textiles
- Electrical appliances
- Mechanical devices
- Jewellery

- Wooden objects
- Garden tool sharpening

For those who have not yet visited us, our sessions take place in the church hall at St. Mary's, Fetcham (off The Ridgeway), on the first Saturday of every month. Visitors are welcome to bring broken possessions for assessment and repair by our volunteer specialists.

They are encouraged to remain with the repairer to observe the work and potentially acquire useful skills for future repairs. Please note, we request only one item per visit. Alternatively visitors may join us for coffee and cake and learn more about our activities.

We are always interested in welcoming new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team, email us or attend our next Café session to learn more about us. For inquiries regarding our services, please email: fabrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Stay informed by following us via:

- Facebook: Fetcham and Bookham Repair Cafe
- Instagram: [fabrepaircafe](https://www.instagram.com/fabrepaircafe)
- Website: www.fetchamandbookhamrepaircafe.com



Our services are provided free of charge; however, donations are appreciated to help us to cover our costs.

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[MORE INFO](#)

www.hblrda.co.uk/volunteering
hblrдавolunteers@outlook.com

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Keep up to date with what is going on
around the village.
Make sure you keep your organisation's
details up to date and let us know
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